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PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 19, 1962

ARA/IO

1. Is it still the position of the United States that the IL-28 Soviet bombers must be removed from Cuba and that some type of verification within Cuba must take place before the U.S. will give any assurance against the invasion of Cuba? How long are we prepared to wait for Soviet compliance with its commitments regarding Cuba?
2. What will be the nature and extent of a "no-invasion" commitment which you may be prepared to give with reference to Cuba? When would we be willing to make this commitment?
3. On what legal justification do we base our present aerial surveillance of Cuba?
4. Are we prepared to discuss with the Soviets, or the Cubans, Castro's so-called "five points", particularly the surrender of Guantanamo and the lifting of our trade embargo against Cuba?
5. In view of the failure of the Soviets to comply with their agreement to remove offensive weapons from Cuba, do you see any further action to be taken by the Organization of American States?
6. What is the position of the United States on the proposal that Latin America become a "nuclear-free" area? How would this affect U.S. installations in Panama, Guantanamo and Puerto Rico? Would we be prepared to permit inspection of U.S. territory?

FE

1. Souvanna Phouma has talked recently of resigning. If that should take place, what could the United States do to preserve neutrality in Laos? Are you satisfied that the Soviets have cooperated as Khrushchev promised they would at Vienna?
2. Precisely what steps have been taken to ensure that the Pathet Lao have fulfilled their obligations under the Laos agreement? For example, press reports indicate that the ILO has not been permitted to enter Communist-controlled areas of Laos to verify the departure of Viet Minh forces. How do we expect the situation to develop from this point?

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FE/NEA

3. Fighting on the India-China border is intensifying. Would you discuss the situation with us in light of our current appraisals and tell us to what extent the United States will go in support of India?

NEA

1. A State Department spokesman reported on Saturday that the U.S. has received assurances from the Government of India that the American arms supplied to India for use in repelling the Communist Chinese aggression will not be used against Pakistan and that such arms will be returned to the U.S. following the end of the present conflict. Do you believe it may be possible for India to achieve an understanding with Pakistan which would permit the use of Indian troops now stationed on the borders of Pakistan in the effort to repel the Chinese aggression?

Press reports indicate that you sent a letter to President Ayub of Pakistan regarding the Chinese invasion of India. Can you confirm this and give us some idea of the contents of the letter?

2. Press reports indicate that the U.S. shipment of arms to India has stimulated a reappraisal of Pakistan's alignment with the West in the CENTO and SEATO pacts? Do we anticipate a withdrawal of Pakistan from participation in these defense arrangements?

3. What is our position regarding the situation in Yemen?

EUR

1. What effect do you believe Khrushchev's decision to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba has had on his position in the Kremlin leadership, i.e., have the Cuban developments strengthened or weakened Khrushchev's position?

2. US-USSR -- Looking to the future, what do you foresee as to the nature of US-USSR relationships as a result of the Cuba confrontation? Do you anticipate a period of increased or decreased tension?

3. Would you care to clearaway some of the "fog" surrounding your exchange of letters with Khrushchev and tell us whether you're satisfied he intends to live up to his pledges of October 23th?

4. Would you care to comment on the results of your discussions with Chancellor Adenauer with particular emphasis on the degree of agreement reached on Allied planning to meet possible Soviet initiatives or pressures against Berlin?

5. Berlin -- Prior to the recent Cuban developments it was the estimate of the Administration that we could expect a resumption of Soviet pressure on the Berlin issue following the U.S. elections. What is our present evaluation of Soviet intentions with reference to Berlin?

Berlin -- Assuming that we have concluded that the Soviet timetable on Berlin has been altered, what are the factors which have led to this change?

EUR/ARA

To what do you attribute Khrushchev's failure to honor the commitments which he made in his correspondence with you to remove weapons which the U.S. regards as offensive? Is this a sign of weakness or do you believe, as some commentators have suggested, that Khrushchev and Castro are conspiring to sabotage the U.S.-Soviet understanding?

ARA addition

Can you tell us anything about the formations of Soviet troops which are reported to be staying in Cuba and forming up into military units? Have we requested the Soviets to remove these troops?